



We are well into the 1977 club season and we are running "full speed ahead". We do have many things in the fire for the benefit of the club.

At the end of this month and the first weekend of April, we will be participating in the exhibit down at the Museum of Science and all who wish to participate in the event are welcome. Just let Kevin Kelly, our club representative to this affair, know of your intentions so he can put you down on his schedule. We, the WARC, will be responsible for manning the Communication Booth where we will be taking traffic from the visitors similar to what we did at the Natick Mall Message Fair and should be great experience for those of you who want to get your fingers into traffic handling, especially you new novices. For any participants, you can park in their garage and get the ticket validated inside so it will cost you nothing. We will be using the cafeteria on the upper floor. Along with us will be the Middlesex Radio Club and the 79 Repeater Association from Malden and possibly one or two other clubs. It is a joint affair for the betterment of Amateur Radio and the ARRL will also be there with some exhibits too. It will be the last weekend of March and the first weekend of April, so make plans to attend if you can.

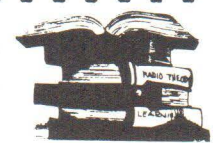
Then we have our annual auction coming which will be held at the Wellesley High School cafeteria on April 16th, from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and will feature not only the auctionable items, but many

side attractions as well. We will have a flea market, lunch and beverages, exhibits and in general, most everything that goes toward a successful auction. We will be needing members to volunteer their services on this event as it is from the proceeds of this auction that gives us the money to carry on throughout the next year until the next auction. We do hope to do well and put in another operating position at our club console or whatever you, the membership, feel we need most for the good of all the club. So, perhaps if you have never been part of an auction, you will find it as exciting as I have found it and consequently have a lot of fun along with helping the club out tremendously.

As if this weren't enough, we are in a planning session for a backpack trip up a mountain in New Hampshire where we can try out our emergency equipment and have a bit of fun too. Details are on the board at the club for those of you who want to sign up for this one day trek. It sounds like a lot of fun.

And, there are still other projects we are working on but the final details are not ready at press time but you will be informed as they are finalized.

education corner



Not much of news this month, except that both Don Chesley's novice course and the general classes (taught by Dave Goldman, Bob Rudko, Mike Adlerstein and Jim Hatherley((WHEW!))), I hope I didn't leave someone out), have been proceeding smoothly. Enrollment figures are hard to keep track of, due to the sporadic drop outs offset by additional drop ins, but when all is tabulated, there is no question that we have broken past attendance records. First night attendance for the Novice class: 50-60; for the general class: 60-70; With those new tablet desks, the basements gets quickly filled to capacity!

Agenda for the remainder of the club year:
Next Novice course starts April 20, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, ends late June-early July

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

March 17 at 7:30 PM at 324 Washington St.
April 7 at 7:30 PM Wellesley club.

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

The ARRL was originally going to issue the first draft of its General course to affiliated clubs at the end of January. To date, we are still waiting to hear from them. When the outline is received and evaluated, it will be made available to anyone who wishes to teach a future General course. The package can be used either as a complete lesson plan or as a reference guide that can supplement one's own teaching methods.

Vy 73's,
Bill, W1PQY

CLEARING THE AIR

From time to time we have asked the membership to submit articles about some of their experiences. So far we have received very little in this respect and again would like to ask again and again, send us some of your experiences in ham radio so we can share the memories of them with you. Perhaps at one time you may have handled a piece of medical traffic which resulted in helping someone unknown, or perhaps it was a unique trip you may have made somewhere, or just a plain camping trip. It makes no difference and makes good copy for the SPARK GAP. So, come on fellows and dig in to your bonnets, I am sure you can come up with something of interest.

We have been planning our upcoming Field Day 77 and are looking into various sites for this event. Some want to return to Ft. Strong on Long Island while others think it isn't such a good place. If you have any suggested sites, bring them to our attention at the next meeting. We are also planning a "Mini" field day for the week before the national one. It will be a good test to try out our gear before we take it to the final site for the competition of Field Day 1977. More on this as we get in to it. Anyone got any better ideas for us to ponder over for the benefit of all the club? If so, let us know as we can run out of ideas too.

We are planning to repair our transceiver at the club station and once done, we expect to have it open on certain evenings through the week. We will post a sked so you can exercise your privileges and sit

down and operate it. We did have some trouble with the power supply and the VOX but I believe by the time you are reading this, all will be operational for your pleasure.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

NR 630 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS:

A new 6 meter operating award came into being January 1, 1977. The 6 meter 600 Club Award, for contacts on or after January 1, has an interesting format with a point structure based on both countries and ARRL sections. If you are now active on 50 MHz, or planning to be in the coming months, be sure to ask for the special application form. Send your addressed stamped envelope to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, Ct. 06111. Please make a notation of 6 meter award on your return envelope.

NR 631 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS:

The league has now filed a 50-page document with FCC in response to the Third Notice of Inquiry in Docket 20271, concerning WARC-79 preparation. This comprehensive filing covers the spectrum from 10 kHz to above 40 GHz and points out how more spectrum can be given to amateurs without affecting other services. February QST reported on the FCC inquiry. Copies of who sends in an addressed stamped envelope at least nine by eleven and a half inches in size with fifty cents postage for third class mailing or ninety cents for first class mailing. Address your requests to WARC Response, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, Ct. 06111 AR

Hereabouts...

Charlie Chabot W1GBF, is a newcomer to 2 meter FM. Charlie is an old timer when it comes to 2 meters but on the AM mode. He finally relented and joined the gang with a nifty I-COM transceiver. I know we will hear from him quite often on the repeaters. Welcome aboard Charlie.

Hoppy Hopkins W1UMW now has a set of Drake twins, the T4XC and the R4C. We hope you get all kinds of DX Hoppy, very fine equipment for a very fine guy.

Vahe Katros, W1QQK, one of our members,

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JAMES W. HATHERLEY

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPARK GAP AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION AND ENCOURAGED PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY-\$5.00. CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, 324 WASHINGTON STREET WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS 02181



HEARABOUTS-Cont'd

took first place in the Maine section in a recent contest. Vahe was operating as K1OEY at the time and our congratulations for a job well done. In 19 operating hours Vahe accumulated 103,000 points. Vahe, due to school at Northeastern, hasn't been as active as normal except for his one stint up in Maine but is active when possible in the N.E. club station. Vahe is also the one who donated those tower sections to the club which we used on field day.

Joe McGrath, W1JIR, has been off on a vacation for the past couple of weeks to California. We know that the old Jeep got a workout going all that distance but Joe had his old friend with him, his I-COM 230 so he must have made oodles of friends in transit. We sure wish you a safe trip home Joe. Perhaps you can give us an account of your experiences during the trip.

Coming to our first meeting in April on the 7th is none other than Stew Perry, W1BB more commonly known as "MR. 160". He has the distinction of having worked DXCC

HEARABOUTS-Cont'd

on this 'mysterious' band and will be on hand to take that mystery out of there. Stew has long been an authority on 160 meters and lives in Winthrop. He will also bring along his original SPARK GAP and for those of you who have only heard about these keys but never saw one work, then you won't want to miss this one. I have met Stew on a few occasions and find him to be a most enlightening guy and I am sure you will too. The date again is April 7th at 7:30 PM.

"New Tickets"



As a result of our successful Novice classes, we have a pretty good list of new ticket holders for you to meet this month. I don't have all the calls that have been issued to our classes but will print those that I do. For those of you who have new tickets and I have missed you, please let me know and we will be sure to make mention of it in next month's GAP. Our club extends CONGRATULATIONS TO W1BUU Martha Gauthier, W1BTR James Hadley, W1BTS Alex Herrmann, W1BUM C.J. McDonald, W1BUN Tom Riley, W1BUQ Dick Magnanti, W1BOZ Joe Garfield, W1BVA Fran Garfield, W1BUB John Schide, W1BALZ John Bellantoni, W1AJA Bruno Vasil, W1AOP Marc Davidson, W1BUT Dale MacKay, W1ACD Maureen McGrath, W1ACC Jim McGrath, W1BUO Paul Bailey, W1BUX David Chouinard, W1BUY Jim Novakoff, W1BUR Jim Murphy, W1UTI John Drum, W1WWF Dennis Chaney, Saul Dinman(advanced) K1PDX and our newest member. Oops, found a couple more, W1AKL David Smith, W1BTT Joshua Slavitt, W1BVC Stan Waugh, W1BVD Peter Waugh, W1BVE Andrew Waugh. By my count that is 27 people and quite a tribute to the men who took time out to teach these classes and make ham radio available to most of these new novices. We wish to welcome all of you to Ham Radio and may you have many years of enjoyment in this hobby. We would also like to extend an open invitation to join our club for those of you who haven't done so already. For details see one of the officers of the club. In any event, our heartiest congratulations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Here is some data as to where the action is insofar as auctions and flea markets are concerned...De Ray W1MPJ.....

March 11th Lowell Institute Auction in
Connock Hall, Lowell 6 PM

April 2 Framingham R.C. Electronic Flea
market- Framingham Civil League
Bldg. Rte 126 @ 9 AM to 12:30.

April 16 Wellesley A.R.S. Auction at
Wellesley High School, 50 Rice
St., Wellesley 10 to 6 PM

May 7 South Shore Repeater Assoc.
Weymouth Town Hall Annex
Essex St., Weymouth, Ma.

May 7 Horsetraders Tailgate/Swapfest
Deerfield Fairground, N.H.

May ?? Rhode Island Amateur F.M.
Kent County YMCA
RTE I-95 Exit 10 W.

If you know of any others, please bring it to our attention so we can publish it.

While on this subject of auctions. For those new fellows who don't know what they are, perhaps we can educate you a little. First of all, if you have something you do not use and want to sell, bring it to the auction where they will sell it for you and the selling club gets a commission from the amount of the sale. Also, if you are on the lookout for some equipment, perhaps you may find it here. Besides all this, there is a lot of parts, cables, and all sorts of electronic junk you can pick up which may be of use to you. All in all, auction time means fun time for eyeballs and generally, an interesting day even if you just come to browse. If you intend to purchase a piece of equipment, it would be a good idea to see if it is in working condition or not and would be wise to get someone's opinion who may be more qualified to tell about the gear in mind. Keep in mind that we will be holding our own auction on the 16th of April and here you may participate by signing the sign-up sheet in the club room.

DID YOU KNOW that beginning March 1, 1977 when you go in to the FCC to take an exam to upgrade your license that when you do pass it they will issue a permit that now allows you to use the privileges of your new ticket until your new license arrives? With the fees for the exams eliminated, why wait?

"timeout!"

Ever thought of how we can take a piece of traffic and get it to its destination? For those of you who don't know, we have a NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM(NTS) that is composed of dedicated hams all over U.S. and Canada who enjoy traffic handling. Here is how it works. First of all you have a message you want to send out, how do we go about it? First off you check into your local net which could be the EAST MASS/RHODE ISLAND(em/ri) nets either by cw or ssb. Novices would use the novice nets which are the New England Novice Net(NENN) or the Eastern Area Slow Net(EASN).(For your records EMRI phone is at 1730 LOCAL time on 3898 kHz. EMRI cw is at 1900 local time on 3660 kHz. NENN is on 3720 kHz at 1630 local time and EASN is on 3726 kHz at 1930 local time.) On the local net you will send your traffic. A liaison man on this net will then take it to the next level up which would be the FIRST AREA NET, (1RN) which covers all New England States. At this level another liaison man will be there to take the through traffic(traffic for other than New England States) to the EASTERN AREA NET (EAN). Up here all the Eastern Seaboard States meet(1RN, 2RN, 3RN, 4RN and 8RN, plus liaison reps from the CENTRAL AREA NET(CAN) AND PACIFIC AREA NET(PAN). To give you an idea of PAN. We just mentioned sending our traffic up the ladder from a local net, well the same is happening out on the West Coast and end up at the PAN level. Anyway, at the EAN level we send our traffic to the rep from the particular RN or the Pan/Can reps who will check in and take your traffic to their own areas when the reverse procedure takes place down to the local level where some ham will make a phone call and deliver your message. You may find that by checking into a net regularly that it can be a lot of fun besides gaining valuable operating experience. If you want, check in or just listen in to some of these nets in action and you will get the gist of it. A good article on checking into nets is in the DEC. 76 QST, Page 56.

Did you know that W1TBY has been sending code practice on 21,120 kHz at 2000 local time on Wednesday nights? Speeds are 5 wpm, 7½wpm, 10 wpm, 13 wpm and 18 wpm.

profiles

by Bob Arnold, WD4AOH

Our PROFILE for this month is that of W1OQP, Al Graf. Al is an original member of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society as it started up a little over 25 years ago. He lives, with his wonderful wife Eileen, at 391 Worcester St., Wellesley Hills, and will celebrate his 54th wedding Anniversary in May.

Al was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 11th, 1903 and graduated from West Technical High School there. While in school he was a member of the varsity swimming and basketball teams. After graduation, Al in the height of his youth, enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he became a radioman and thus getting his baptism to this media. As it turned out, after 3 years of Navy duty, he enrolled at Wentworth Institute to become a plumber. Upon finishing this course he got a job as a plumber for Harvard University and was here until World War II got going and promptly went down and enlisted again so he could get a front seat to the show. Because of his age and radio background, radiomen were desperately needed.

Al lucked into the position of Chief Radio Petty Officer. Before shipping out he had to attend a brush up course in radio at Wellesley College, thus becoming one of the few males to attend this famous girl's school.

From here the Navy didn't want to disappoint him and ordered him on to the newly commissioned destroyer U.S.S. Sigourney, DD643. Al spent the remaining days of the war aboard the Sigourney and by some quirk of fate, his ship came through all the actions without a scratch even though they were in the thick of it often. This is borne out by the fact that on Al's Asiatic Theater of Operations Medal, he has 11 stars, each denoting one battle. He also has the Philippine Liberation Medal with two stars for his "front seat" in both battles of the Philippine Sea. He also survived a few Kamikaze attacks which were getting to be more and more frequent in the waning months of the war.

Al, after the war, returned to Harvard U. and became the foreman of plumbing where he spent his years until retirement in 1972. Al and Eileen have three children and are grandparents a few times over.



Now retired, Al spends his time as a volunteer driver for the Red Cross, is active in Civil Defense, is a Mason/Shriner, and naturally, a ham. He has worked much DX and has 210 countries confirmed. When hamming, you may run across him on 40 mtr ssb or cw portions, or on 20 meters in the ssb areas. Though he has lots of gear, it is his Gonset GSB100 transmitter, Collins 75S3B receiver and a 1 KW linear that does most of the service though he does get on 2 meter AM quite often. He is thinking of (finally, at long last, HI) getting a new 2 meter FM transceiver so don't get surprised if you hear W1OQP coming in loud and clear on the 36 repeater.

Al got his Ham ticket in 1942, quite a while after his initial introduction to Navy radio in 1920 and at the time, because of the war, could get a ticket but could not transmit, so he had to wait until after the war to make his first amateur QSO. Al is now an Advanced Class ticket holder.

About a year ago, Al and Eileen took a trip to Hong Kong. Just before embarking on that trip, he worked a ham on Macao, an island just off the shore of Hong Kong. Figuring to save time and postage, he decided to hold the QSL card until he got to Hong Kong and mail it from there, only to find out that it cost just as much as if he had mailed it from the states. Sort of a letdown, but a memorable one.

At our 25th Anniversary Celebration in November, Al was presented with a plaque from the club, properly engraved, as being an original club member. He cherishes it and you will find it adorns a spot in his shack. He is also a Life Member of the

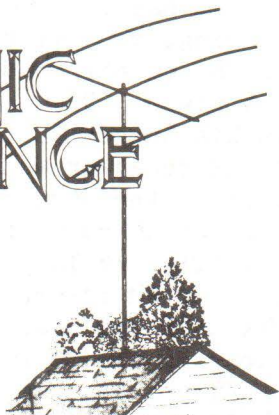
PROFILES-Cont'd.....

club. Al is also active in some of the less strenuous club activities like the Natick Mall Message Fair but doesn't climb up towers anymore to string up an antenna.

When you meet him you will always be greeted by a warm aura of friendship and will feel like you have known him for many years because he puts you completely at ease.

So, there you have it, Al Graf W1OQP, a Navy radioman from the SPARK GAP days through to the times of satellite communications. In questioning Al about the club he says, I am more enthusiastic than ever and look forward to the next 25 years of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society. It is refreshing to see the new faces of people about to embark on this wonderful hobby and it is a pleasure to be a member of this club.

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE



FOR SALE: TA-33 JR Moseley three element beam for 10-15 and 20 meters. Call Bob Rudko W1HSS at 429 4082.

Looking for a 6 meter beam. Call Paul Randazzo W1LSXU at 649 9262.

This column is yours for placing an ad or for selling something or buying something and this month it seems, that nobody is looking for much, but if you do want to use this column, send your ad to Jim Hatherley, 46 Hobson St., Brighton Ma tel: 254 6042 and it will appear in the next edition of the SPARK GAP. This applies to all people whether a member of this club or not. Thank you.



ACTIVITIES

I don't have any regular report from this group but on Sunday February 20th, the Town of Wellesley went through a hurricane compounded with fires and flooding and our Civil Defense Group was right there on the ball, to handle this simulated emergency condition. Yep, once a year we do run preparedness tests to keep ourselves adept at handling most situations that may or could occur and the SET exercise is the place we practice it. Over 25 test messages were handled successfully by the group and though it went well, the need for improvement is always there. P.S. The Town was saved.

Activities

At our March 17th meeting we expect either Doug DeMaw or Ed Tilton from the ARRL to speak to us. I do not know the subject of their talk at this writing but knowing both of them, it should prove interesting. It is also, this date, Evacuation Day and St. Patrick's Day so perhaps we can come to the meeting with a little green that night and be IRISH for the night. (No, for once I don't mean money, though that isn't a bad thought either.....HI.....)

While we are on the subject of the ARRL, I understand that they are increasing their dues from 9.00 bucks per to 12 bucks but don't know when it goes into effect. Think it is April but am not too sure.

CLEARING THE AIR

Which brings up another topic. I have heard on the band a bunch of hams saying how they plan to leave the ARRL, that it isn't giving them that much anymore and for comparison they seem to compare QST with some other magazine like 73, Ham Radio etc. This could well be but these are probably the same guys that never let the ARRL know of their thoughts but just gripe about it anyhow. But the ARRL does go deeper than just a magazine and does do a lot to consolidate hams, more than any other body I know of. Now if you are one of these malcontents, why not show up at the March 17th meeting and register your 'gripe' with our guest of the night? Or

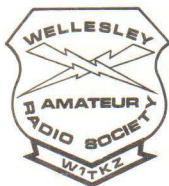
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73. Roger WALRSV

Most of us go to great trouble to ground our antennas and equipment for lightning protection but forget that lightning

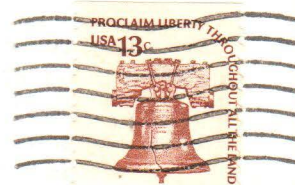
Guess that's it for this month gang, see you at the meetings. Until then, Vy 73.

The Spark Gap



**WELLESLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY**

324 Washington Street
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181



WAITUH
NELS ANDERSON